



Home to me is always being in a routine. I'm someone who doesn't like change and I like to stick to a plan. My whole family is like that, so whenever I'm home in New Jersey we usually do the same things together; we work out, we eat together, we watch TV, etc. Things are somewhat set in stone and it makes for a very comfortable feeling. Obviously being abroad is a lot of change, and it's put a lot of stress on me because I don't have a routine here and I still need to get adjusted to a brand new environment. I've never been here before, I've never been out of the country before and I've never been by myself for this long with no way of getting home. At Syracuse, at least I know I have the option of driving home if I needed to. Here it's just a different world. So a big part of making this feel like home to me is getting a routine down and getting a set path of what I'm going to do every day. A huge part of that is making time to work out, and that's something I can control. It's a huge stress reliever for me and makes me feel at home because my mom is a personal trainer and we always work out together. She's just instilled in my mind that to be productive you need to exercise. When I work out every day, I feel like I'm getting something done and it gives me a fresh start to my day. Having control over that one aspect of my life while I'm living in an environment that I don't have much control over definitely makes me feel more at home.

Serena Dibianco
Princeton, New Jersey



Coming back from Portugal last weekend, I was eager to come back “home” to my own bed after rapidly hopping from one hostel to another on our four-day school trip. On the way back however, I realized the paradox that “home” has become, since London has become my temporary dwelling. It has become my home away from home, and I realized that this place, which felt unfamiliar a month ago, has become a comfortable space to return to after a long weekend abroad.

Alec Rovensky
Long Island, New York



Since I was young, I have often had a hard time telling people what my true identity is due to my complicated background. Moving to a different country every few years, my definition of home is very different from anyone else. Moving to London wasn't a rough transition for me as I am very adaptable to different environments and culture. London, a place that was so unfamiliar and unknown to me at the very beginning, instantly turned into a place where I can feel the most comfortable with.

Phang Lim
Johor Bahru, Malaysia



Quite honestly home is my mom. Home is where I feel the most comfortable and where I can be myself. Home is thrift stores, breakfast at a café, and cats – usually that includes my mom. I get quite homesick while in Syracuse so I call her every day. Even when I think about the future, it involves living no more than an hour away from her. I moved around a lot as a kid, then I decided to go to college in another state, and now I am here in London, but she is my constant. My mom grounds me when I start to get crazy and stressed like most twenty-year-olds do and therefore she would have to be my definition of home, no matter how cliché that might seem.

Alyssa Mahaffey
Hilltown, Pennsylvania



Home for me has always been in the same part of New Jersey. Since we moved into my current house when I was very young, it has been the only home I've ever known, even though I lived in another one before. Moving to a new place, especially transitioning from a suburban area to a city, definitely left me a bit skeptical as to how I would adjust. However, after being here for just a month and a half, I can honestly say my flat and my friends have become a home I look forward to returning to everyday. Living in a new place with new people has given me a greater sense of what really makes a home and I look forward to the remaining time I get to share with them in this beautiful place.

Niya Klayman
Freehold, New Jersey



I have spent a large portion of my life relocating and therefore I have constantly had to teach myself how to adapt to new environments. There are pros to a scenario like this, such as my high level of independence. However, when there are pros it often means the cons are not far away. It was not until the question “What is home when you’re away” was asked that it hit me. Do I have a home? Well, due to my frequent moving I don’t consider myself to truly have a place that I call home. I more so see home as a place that can provide me with enough solitude to feel at ease, allowing room for me to readjust. Overall, I’d say I’m homesick for a home I haven’t found yet.

Frankie Kennedy
Montreal, Quebec



I think specifically for London; I feel at home in my flat. It's like a sense of home to me. Not only because all of my things are there, like a bed and a lot of things you normally associate with being home, I just love all of my roommates and we've been friends since back at school. It's so nice to have a group of people who I'm comfortable with to come back to. I think that's definitely something that I associate with home when abroad, especially here. Syracuse, in a way, is also home for me. When I'm there I'll refer to it as a home. But home home (San Jose) will always be my home.

Sandhya Iyer
San José, California



There's not a specific place. It's both my house in New Jersey, where I grew up, but also Syracuse. I don't think I consider London my "home home" yet, but I think by the end (of the semester) it will feel like home. I feel like the thing that reminds me most of home is in the flat. Whether you've been at school or you're interning or you're traveling, I think the best thing is just opening the door and you have a space that's yours. Even when I'm traveling, no matter where I am, even if it's a super cool place like Iceland or Barcelona, I always look forward to being able to come home and put my slippers on.

Isha Battu
Livingston, New Jersey



I'm currently studying in Madrid, and this was my first time out of the country in my life. So this was the first time I've had to make a foreign land feel like home. I've noticed that the little things are what really do it for me, like food, music or TV shows. Those things just make it feel more familiar and more like the routine I would have back home. For instance, there've been times my host mom has made meals like my mom would normally make, and that gives me a comforting feeling. If I'm sitting in my bed and watching a show that I normally watch at home, it makes me feel like I'm back there instead of in a random apartment in Madrid. So for me, it just happens to be those small, simple things that you don't really notice when you are home that can make another place feel more familiar.

Mitchell McColl
Lehigh, Pennsylvania



To me, home isn't a place. It's not a city or a town or a residence. Home is a feeling. By this I mean a feeling of absolute comfort and relaxation. When I'm with my family and my best friends, I am the best version of myself. This, to me, is being home. In London, I feel most at home when I'm laughing so hard with my friends that my stomach hurts or smiling so much that my face gets sore. I can feel at home anywhere if I'm with the right people.

Maddy Snyder
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



As I get older, I spend more and more time apart from the home I grew up in, and I've had to learn how to make other places feel comfortable. I've spent two semesters abroad, last spring in Strasbourg and now in London. I've made these foreign cities feel more like home by connecting with them. I think to connect with a place you have to learn to appreciate it. In France, I learned to appreciate how the lifestyle was different from the one I was used to. For instance, I learned how stores were not open on Sundays, because it symbolized French values. They felt Sundays should be reserved for family time and rest. Here in London, I've learned to appreciate how international the city is. From the cuisine to the people you see on the street, there is immense diversity. When I'm back in America, it's those kinds of things that I remember and sometimes miss. Having that connection and appreciation for a place is what makes it home for me.

Caroline Cox
Old Lyme, Connecticut



I consider home to be my bed. So if I'm in a place that's not normally home to me, I try to make my bed as comfy and cozy as I can so that it reminds me of home. I spend a lot of time in my bed, so it's really important for me to feel warm and comfortable in that space. No matter where I am, as long as my bed feels like home then I feel at home.

Maialie Fitzpatrick
Westport, Connecticut



For me home when I am away is my mom. I know that sounds cliché but I truly feel like no matter where I am, if I'm with her, I always feel like I have a bit a home with me.

Sunny Balkin
Long Island, New York



I've moved a lot since I was younger. I was born in San Diego, then I lived in Chicago from the time I was thirteen until I went to college and now my parents live in New Jersey. So I've had a lot of different homes. Each of them are really different, and I'd say what makes them feel unique is finding people that I connect with. That's what I think makes places feel like home. Keeping a schedule and staying busy also is important. I've found with London that exploring the city also helps – going out and seeing the city makes me feel more comfortable, more like I'm from here, and it makes it feel more like home than just a vacation.

Emily Berlin
Jersey City, New Jersey



New Jersey would technically be my home because that's where I'm from, but I have a lot of homes, like Syracuse and now London. I do consider London home now, and to make it feel more like home I go and do things as I would at home, like having a schedule, doing homework, cooking and working out. Working out helps relieve stress that I have, and I've experienced stress in all the places I consider home and so I find this to be a good coping mechanism no matter where I am.

Alexandria Borrielli
Rivervale, New Jersey



I originate from Dominica in the West Indies so for me, I have two places I call home. Whenever I go to Dominica, I always say, "I am going home", yet in Dominica, I always refer to home as London. It would be really hard to, but if I had to pick one, then it would have to be here in London because this is where I grew up. Most of my family is here, and for me family is home.

Eugenia Francis
Dominica, West Indies



Home for me is my parents' home in Surbiton. It's a very normal semi-detached house in the suburbs of London, but the house has always been in my family. It is where we've celebrated every Christmas, Easter, birthday, etc. When I'm travelling, home is London and cup of English breakfast tea. Whenever I was at university I couldn't wait to get back to the hustle and bustle and bright lights of London. Home is also my family and friends, things that are familiar to me and the area I was brought up in.

Julia Sheehan
Surbiton, England



This depends on where we are. When I'm in the USA, home is London. When I'm in London, home is the USA – except it isn't, since my parents passed away and I no longer go to my hometown. Instead, I go to Montana where my sister and her family live. But the city that feels like home is Florence, Italy.

Meghan Callahan
*Brixton/Stockwell,
London, UK*



Home for me was never just one place on a map. I was born in the outskirts of Warsaw but then moved to the city when I was seven. Then between the age of sixteen and twenty-three, I moved about ten times including spending five months in Rome and nine months in Cracow. Home for me is a place where I can feel comfortable with myself. Where people who I am surrounded with are people who are warm and loving. I used to be single for a long time and it was always just me and my dog Przygoda. Now I've been living with my partner for fourteen months and I am not home (wherever I live or travel) if he is not with me. For me it's love that makes any place – home.

Maria Skolozynska
Warsaw, Poland